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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 02864

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ACTION: POL
INFO: DCM P/M ECON RSO AMB

DISSEMINATION: POL
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APPROVED: DCM:RALBRIGHT
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RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1283
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 4257

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 002864

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/FO, NEA/NGA, NEA/ARP AND SA/PB

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/14
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ

Classified by Ambassador Michele J. Sison, reasons 1.5
(b) and (d).

1. (U) SUMMARY: Iraqi Vice President Dr. Ebrahim Al Jaafari discussed developments in Iraq and UAE assistance with Abu Dhabi Deputy Crown Prince and UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Shaykh Mohammed bin Zayed (MbZ) on August 20 in Abu Dhabi. On August 21, Al Jaafari visited the headquarters of the UAE Red Crescent Authority (RCA), praising the UAE and the RCA for their support of the Iraqi people during and after the war. END SUMMARY.

POLITICAL/SECURITY COOPERATION

2. (C) Al Jaafari arrived in Abu Dhabi on August 20 for talks with MbZ on the latest political and security developments in Iraq and continued strengthening of bilateral ties. Although our contact at the Iraqi Embassy called the meeting a "courtesy call" and could not provide a readout of items discussed at the meeting, we understand they discussed ongoing UAE assistance to Iraq. On the day of the visit, MbZ's Special Advisor, Yousef Al Otaiba, called USLO Chief to inform him that, during meetings with the Iraqi Chief of Staff last week, and as a result of a request from the Iraqi delegation, the UAE had agreed to donate 350 sets of Generation III Night Vision Goggles and gun-mounted sights to the Iraqi military. (NOTE: The Embassy will be working this issue carefully to ensure that all third party transfer requirements are met. END NOTE) Also, on the

same day, the press widely reported that the UAE Air Force provided two C-130 transport planes to repatriate 145 Iraqi refugees who were living in Pakistan to Baghdad. The initiative was a collaborative effort by several offices within the UAE, the Pakistani Government, Iraq's Charge d'Affaires to Pakistan, the Red Cross, and the International Organization of Migration (IOM). In addition to this goodwill gesture toward Iraq, Al Otaiba told Poloff that they agreed to provide the support because the UAE does all it can to assist the Pakistani Government. Providing airlift support is only one way that the UAE helps the Musharraf regime, he said. He also noted that the refugees assisted were not linked to the UAE in any way. Rather, Pakistani authorities selected those who were returned to Iraq. The Iraqi Embassy also confirmed that they continue to work with the UAE and German governments to train Iraqi police in the UAE. A division of 250-300 police will arrive in the UAE in one month for training, according to First Secretary Sabah Al Wali. Al Wali also said that Al Jaafari will return to the UAE on August 25 for additional official meetings.

RED CRESCENT AUTHORITY ASSISTANCE

13. (C) Al Jaafari visited the headquarters of the Red Crescent Authority on August 21. He was accompanied by Qusay Mahdi Salih, Iraqi Charge d'Affaires to the UAE, and Dr. Adnan Al Asidi, the Secretary General of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. They were received by the UAE RCA Board Chairman, Khalifa Nasir Al Suwaidi, who briefed them on the RCA's activities. Al Jaafari, who is also active in the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, praised the UAE for its unstinting support for Iraq and its people. He particularly pointed out the UAE's assistance in providing health care to Iraqi's sick and wounded, and thanked the UAE for donating the Shaykh Zayed Hospital in Baghdad. Al Suwaidi stated to the press that the RCA was doing everything it could to boost cooperation with the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi RCA, and would continue to implement projects aimed at improving the humanitarian situation there. Poloff learned during a meeting at the RCA last month that some of the projects it has already undertaken in Iraq include the refurbishment of 10 hospitals, desalination projects in Basra, Umm Qasr, and Abul Khusaib, and building a field hospital and supplying medical staffing through the UAE Armed Forces. On August 22, the media reported that a plane loaded with 35 tons of food and medical supplies would be flown to Baghdad the next day, marking the RCA's 28th humanitarian airlift effort since the start of the war. The report also stated that the RCA recently dispatched thousands of additional tons of humanitarian relief supplies to Iraq by land and sea, and that all RCA assistance projects are coordinated with Coalition forces, the Iraqi Government, and the UNRWA.

14. (U) MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

SISON